



CALIFORNIA STRATEGIC GROWTH COUNCIL



Memorandum

DATE: September 4, 2018
TO: Applicants for Round Two of the Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) Program
FROM: TCC Program Staff
RE: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) for TCC Round Two Guidelines

This document answers Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about the Transformative Climate Communities Round Two Program Guidelines: Implementation Grant and Planning Grant sections.

Round Two Guidelines, Application Materials, and NOFA can be found on the SGC website:
<http://www.sgc.ca.gov/programs/tcc/resources/>

Please contact the SGC with any questions: tcc@sgc.ca.gov or (916) 322-6138.

FAQs Related to the Implementation Grants

1) Question: Can you clarify requirements related to leverage funding.

Answer: Leverage funding must be clearly integrated into the Implementation of the Strategies selected to achieve the TCC Program Objectives (see Section II.C, Program Framework). Leverage funding must be spent within the TCC Project Area. Expenditure of leverage funding towards the fifty percent (50%) threshold will only be counted after the grant has been awarded by the Strategic Growth Council. Funding committed for projects or programs already underway prior to applying to the TCC Program will only be counted if the Applicant can clearly demonstrate that a distinct phase is directly associated with the TCC Proposal. Leverage funding should be spent contemporaneously with TCC funding to maintain the fifty percent (50%) eligibility requirement over the term of the grant.

2) Question: How should applicants refer to the workforce component of the transformative requirements?

Answer: The workforce component should be referred to as the Workforce Development and Economic Opportunities Plan. It should aim to: 1) Create workforce development and education training programs with career pathways for residents of the Project Area, and 2) Explain how the TCC investment will result in economic opportunities via the creation of high-quality jobs. The current version of the guidelines in page 16 refers to the workforce component as "Workforce and Economic Development" which is inaccurate because the TCC program does not fund economic development related activities and this will be corrected in the next guidelines update.

3) Question: Can applicants use grant funds to implement the Transformative Requirements?

Answer: Activities related to Indicator Tracking, Community Engagement, and Workforce Development can be funded by TCC grant funds. Activities related to Displacement Avoidance cannot be funded through TCC grant fund and can only be paid for using leverage funding. Climate Adaptation and Resiliency planning activities must be paid for with leverage funding only. Implementation measures and design features that mitigate climate change impacts are fundable as direct project cost.

4) Question: Can you clarify ineligible costs according to Page 34 of the Guidelines, in the list of “Additional Ineligible Costs,” Letter F?

Answer: This means that any mitigation related activity or other mandated activities resulted from CEQA or other local requirements cannot be funded.

5) Question: Clarify whether housing projects that previously received AHSC funding are eligible to apply for TCC.

Answer: To prevent the double-counting of greenhouse gas emissions with funding from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, an AHSC Project previously awarded funding through the AHSC Program is ineligible to receive funding for the same AHSC Project through the TCC Program. An exception is available for AHSC Projects that have previously received funding through the AHSC Program, only if the AHSC Project included in the TCC Proposal is proposing a new or different phase of the AHSC Project previously funded that results in greenhouse gas emission reductions not already accounted for in the existing AHSC project. The Strategic Growth Council staff recognizes that changes to the existing AHSC Project Types may be unique, and applicants who are not clear as to whether their AHSC Project qualifies for this exception should consult further with the SGC.

6) Question: What type of Tribal Governments are eligible to apply for TCC program?

Answer: Any Federally recognized tribes and any Native American tribe listed on the California Tribal Consultation List, maintained by the NAHC is eligible to apply for the TCC program.

7) Question: Under Decarbonized Energy and Energy Efficiency Strategy, program/project support costs is indicated to be only reimbursed on the basis of an hourly “loaded” rate which will include Association for Energy Affordability, Inc.’s base labor costs and fringe benefit labor costs. Is AEA the only reference for defining the rate?

Answer: No. Association for Energy Affordability, Inc.’s base labor costs and fringe benefit labor costs is only one example that applicants can use to define an hourly “loaded” rate.

FAQs Related to the Planning Grants

8) Question: Should the Lead Applicant upload a single Letter of Intent that details each Co-Applicant’s participation in proposed activities?

Answer: Yes, the Lead Applicant should upload a single Letter of Intent that details each Co-Applicant’s participation in the proposed activities.

9) Question: Should the Lead Applicant upload a Letter of Support from the adopting agency of the plan to be implemented and local and/or regional governments and agencies that will be involved in the planning process?

Answer: Yes, the Lead Applicant should upload a Letter of Support from the agency(ies) that will be involved in implementing the plan.